(b) The table below shows import of total finished steel in the country during the last three years.

Year	Import of Total Finished Steel (mt)
2005-06	4.31
2006-07	4.93
2007-08*	6.92

Source: JPC; *=provisional

(c) As per the Report of the Working Group on Steel Industry for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) prepared in December 2006, the demand of steel in the country is estimated to reach 70.34 million tonnes and the supply of steel in the country is estimated to reach 80.23 million tonnes by 2012. However, as per the latest estimates, the domestic production of steel is likely to reach a level of 124.06 million tonnes by 2011-12.

(d) In order to promote the domestic steel industry and to meet the projected demand, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Steel), to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

Measures to control the price of steel

†928.SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any measures to control the price of steel;

(b) if so, the measures taken during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) the number of times the prices of steel have been raised from 1st April, 2008 till date; and

(d) whether Government is considering to formulate any permanent policy in this regard alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government has taken various administrative as well as fiscal measures to stabilize price and supply of steel in the domestic market. The notable measures taken in this regard as follows:

2007-08

a. Customs Duty on alloy steel reduced from 7.5% to 5% in the general budget 2007-08.

b. Customs Duty on seconds and defective category of steel items reduced from 20% to 10% in the general budget 2007-08.

c. Export Cess of Rs 300/tonne imposed on export of iron ore in general budget 2007-08 which was later revised and reduced to Rs 50/tonne on Iron Ore Fines with Fe content of 62% and less.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

d. Customs Duty on Nickel, an important raw material for steel making, reduced from 5% to 2% in May 2007.

e. DEPB benefit on export of various categories of steel products was withdrawn *w.e.f.* 27.03.2008.

2008-09

a. Import Duty on all non-alloy steel, Zinc, ferro-alloys and metcoke revised to 'Nil' from 5% *w.e.f.* 29.4.08.

b. CVED on TMT bars and rounds modified to 'Nil' from 14%.

c. Export Duty was initially imposed on 10.5.08 on all flat products @ 15% on HR, 10% on CR, 5% on GP/GC and 10% on pipes and tubes. This was subsequently withdrawn on 13.06.2008.

d. Export duty @15% imposed on 10.05,2008 on Pig Iron, Sponge Iron, Scrap, Ingots and all categories of non-alloy semi finished steel.

e. Export Duty @ 10% was imposed on long products such as bars, wire rods, angles etc., on 10.05.08. This was later revised to 15% *w.e.f.* 13.06.08.

f. Ad-valorem export duty of 15% imposed on iron ore of all categories and grades *w.e.f.* 13.06.2008.

(c) The month wise steel price movement in Delhi Retail Market during April 2008 to October 2008 is given in the table below.

(In Rs/ton)

Month	HR 2.0 mm	CR 0.63 mm	TMT 10 mm	Wire Rod 8mm	Pig Iron	Pencil Ingot 100mm
April 2008	49000	52000	46000	43600	34500	38300
May 2008	43000	45000	38200	38000	32400	33000
June 2008	50045	49492	47451	45925	32900	39650
July 2008	45327	48145	43335	43738	35397	38168
August 2008	45477	48145	42727	43073	36873	35366
September 2008	45327	48700	41934	43664	36000	35300

Source: JPC

(d) Steel is a deregulated sector and steel prices are determined by the market based on factors like demand and supply situation, landed cost of imports, input costs and price and availability of substitutes etc. The Government, as a facilitator, takes administrative and fiscal measures whenever required to ensure stability in price and supply of steel in the domestic market.

Claims of the SAIL over the leaseholds on Chiria iron ore mines

929. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the claim of the SAIL over the leaseholds on Chiria iron-ore mines is in dispute with the Jharkhand State Government which is affecting the expansion of SAIL in the States; and